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## FEBRUARY CIRCULATION.

W. B. Carr, Business Manager of The St. Louis Republic, being duly sworn, says that the actual number of full and complete copies of the daily and Sunday Republic printed during the month of February, 1900, all in regular editions, was as per schedule below:

Date	Copies	Date	Copies
1.....	78,210	15.....	82,710
2.....	79,200	16.....	82,290
3.....	81,100	17.....	84,123
4.....	84,120	18.....	87,190
5.....	85,710	19.....	87,740
6.....	82,270	20.....	82,710
7.....	81,090	21.....	82,170
8.....	81,550	22.....	84,060
9.....	83,660	23.....	82,850
10.....	83,435	24.....	84,985
11.....	87,310	25.....	88,820
12.....	86,790	26.....	83,330
13.....	82,530	27.....	89,470
14.....	82,360	28.....	82,970

Total for the month..... 2,333,365  
 Less all copies spoiled in printing, left over or filed..... 81,245

Net number distributed..... 2,274,864  
 Average daily distribution..... 81,245  
 And said W. B. Carr further says that the number of copies returned or reported unsold during the month of February was 143 per cent.

W. B. CARR,  
 Notary Public, City of St. Louis, Mo. My term expires April 26, 1901.

## EASY-GOING RINGERS.

In the Republic's recent tabulated statement of municipal expenditures for the horses and vehicles used by city officials, the cost of their maintenance, the hire of horses for special use and the outlay for the street car travel of city employees, there is especially strong proof of the extravagance with which the affairs of St. Louis are now being managed.

Considerably over \$50,000 per annum is expended in this field alone, and in few instances is there justification for the heavy tax thus placed upon the city. It is the machine gang that enjoys the fruit of this outlay, and the friends of the gang who profit by the money thus expended. That economical and businesslike administration promised by Mayor Ziegenfuss when a candidate for election is not very greatly in evidence in this statement of livery money drawn from the City Treasury.

It would be well for the ringsters, who are so strenuously endeavoring to compel the sacrifice of the Hospital fund, to turn their attention to this field for retrenchment. An honest effort to reduce it to proper proportions will result in the saving of thousands of dollars annually. When that shall have been done, there are other cases of municipal extravagance worthy of attention and demanding reform. The Hospital fund is in danger of necessitated sacrifice if the local administration can only be brought to sacrifice the grafts and soft snaps of the ringsters instead.

## PECKSNIFF IN CHINA.

That will be an interesting and significant historical page when, as rumors predict, an American army under orders to march into the interior. The prediction says that the allied fleets of the United States and Great Britain will witness this invasion and will, in effect, co-operate in a naval demonstration of at least an equal impressiveness. In the event of conflict on land, the ships of these two powers will join in bombarding China's coast cities. English and American marines will together occupy the towns that may capitulate under such circumstances.

It is desired by the McKinley administration that the American people shall attribute this contemplated invasion of China to the peril of certain American missionaries, threatened by Chinese turbulence in the Tien-Tsin district. The dispatches from the American Minister to China, however, upon which the hurried preparations for this invasion were begun, related to the Dowager Empress An's hostility to the "open-door" policy, and the likelihood that the maintenance of this commercial and political policy is thereby endangered. There is little said as to any real peril to missionaries, save what is pleaded in vague terms by administration imperialists in Washington.

The United States will render a tremendous service to Great Britain in this assuming the task of blocking Russia's anti-English game in China by terrorizing or thrashing the Chinese into an abandonment of their part in the Russo-Chinese understanding for the surrender of a certain portion of Chinese territory to the Russians. This would be the true object of any sudden action—the district where our missionaries' lives are "endangered" being exactly that district where Russia hopes to gain a foothold. England may well value the "understanding" with Mr. McKinley by which this conclusive proof of the existence of an Anglo-American alliance shall be given to the world.

The American people will credit the

vague stories of an impending massacre of missionaries whenever properly confirmed, and will applaud the administration for taking prompt action looking toward the necessary protection. Until then, however, the belief will be general that his actual policy of using good objects as a cloak with which to conceal designs so questionable that he fears to submit them to popular judgment.

## A MORE DIRECT HINT.

The crusade against the whores continues to be a matter of talk rather than of action. It is high time for a change of programme. Let us stop talking and begin to do things.

To the end that effort at relief might be intelligently directed The Republic presented last week a specific suggestion as to a locality in which the evil is more tolerably manifest than anywhere else in the city. It is not apparent as yet that its suggestion has been acted on. It is in order to ask why.

Perhaps the suggestion pointed to a stretch of the designated street too extended to make the indications sufficiently specific. If that was a fault The Republic will now endeavor to remedy its mistake. It has urged immediate attention to the dens of infamy so numerous on Olive street from Twelfth street to Grand avenue, but the work of cleaning out two dozen blocks all at once is possibly too much to demand. Narrow the work down, then, to two instead of two dozen blocks. Let it begin on Olive street between Twenty-sixth and Twenty-eighth.

When the hotbeds of immorality and vice to be found in this limited district have been disposed of, we may look with hopefulness for the successful prosecution of the good work on a larger scale. Here, as elsewhere on Olive street, will be found resorts of the evil and the vicious so obnoxious that the authorities who are charged with the enforcement of the law cannot possibly be ignorant of their existence. What interpretation shall we put upon the neglect of duty which their continued presence unmistakably proclaims?

Nowhere else in the whole city of St. Louis can there be found a situation which offers so serious a shock to every sense of decency. If we cannot protect the immediate neighborhood of our churches and our schools, we are powerless indeed. But we are not powerless. The law is strong enough. Can we secure an exercise of its power?

## KNOW WHAT TO EXPECT.

It would seem to be a foolish waste of time to figure on the character of the platform which Mark Hanna, the instrument of the trusts, will dictate to the Republican party, the party of the trusts, on which the Republican campaign of 1900 shall be waged in behalf of the trusts.

When it is known that Hanna is to remain at the head of the Republican national organization and that Mr. McKinley is to be renominated for President, all doubt as to the Republican platform is at once dispelled. Where it is feasible to openly favor policies demanded by the trusts, this action will be taken. Where a shifty evasion through word-juggling promises to fool the people, this method of trickery will be employed. Where it is considered dangerous to openly appear to craftily straddle certain issues, a stand on the people's side will be taken, subject to repudiation after the elections.

It is not reasonable to expect more than this from the Republican party under Hanna's dictatorship. This man was placed in public life to act for the trusts. His management of the McKinley campaign in 1896 was a trust management. His handling of Mr. McKinley since that time has been in the interests of the trusts, and he has held Mr. McKinley faithful to those interests. The trusts now demand imperialism, militarism, government by force, the levying of tariff taxes on subject peoples, the extension of the protective system by means of the passage of a shipping subsidy bill, the alliance with England for landgrabbing purposes. In so far as it is possible to Mr. McKinley, the trusts will get what they want.

The American people must decide with their eyes open. They know the administration party and its methods. They know the influences dominating that party. They know Mark Hanna and his malign mastery of McKinley. They know that the only hope of escape from the trusts is to remove from power the party that is now owned body and soul by the trusts. They must act conclusively on this knowledge.

## FILTER BILL HEARING.

A large and representative gathering of St. Louisans should be present at the public hearing on the filter bill given by a committee of the Council this afternoon. The bill provides for experiments in the purification and clarification of St. Louis's water supply and appropriates money for these experiments. This is logically the first step toward the erection of a purification plant. St. Louis should know the best treatment for her water before she sets about building a big plant costing millions of dollars.

Every St. Louisan who has the interest of his home city at heart should attend the hearing. The question whether St. Louis's water supply is unwholesome, whether it has been polluted by Chicago's drainage canal, is not all. St. Louis wants clearer, more slightly water, and the experiments provided for in the filter bill will tell us how we can most economically get it.

The passage of a bill along such scientific lines will be the surest bar to the obnoxious patent-right devices and the meddling of private corporations with St. Louis's waterworks.

The World's Fair is fast approaching, and St. Louis must have presentable water for visitors. The time is short enough if every moment is used.

Some strong pleas should be made at the hearing by men who know St. Louis and its needs, and who realize that the progress of the city means the progress of every one of its citizens.

on various pleas. Some Councilmen wanted a private corporation to do the work, some favored a patent device of doubtful efficacy, some thought St. Louis's engineers should have the required knowledge in some occult, intuitive way without the necessity of experiments.

## STEPPING FORWARD.

The notification of Comptroller Sturgeon to the Street Commissioner that the bulk of the force of sprinkling inspectors will have to be dispensed with because of lack of funds to pay them will severely result in harm to St. Louis, especially in consideration of the offer of the Board of Police Commissioners to have the police do the sprinkling inspecting.

The Department of Sprinkling Inspection has for years been a source of infinite scandal. The inspectors did little more than draw their salaries. Although complaints of flooded streets, of streets not sprinkled, of flagrant violation of contract specifications were made every day, the inspectors saw nothing and the contractors did as they pleased. For two seasons a straw man was carried on the rolls in one district without detection, so little was the work required of these inspectors. Sprinkling inspectors pursued openly other callings when they should have been inspecting the sprinkling.

Such inspection was little better than throwing into the river the money paid for salaries. That money can be saved without any stringency being apparent in the conduct of the city's affairs. Comptroller Sturgeon has taken a proper step.

## TOO GOOD TO MISS.

Illinois Democrats of the Twentieth Senatorial District are to be commended for the resolute manner in which they have set to work to insure a party victory in this year's election. Republican dissensions in that district furnish an opportunity too promising to be neglected.

Conditions existing in this Illinois district are practically duplicated in many other sections of the State. The Tanner-Cullom feud, as a matter of course, largely accounts for these conditions, but the trend to Democracy is also more notable than for years past. Earnest and aggressive campaign work on the part of Democrats cannot fail to bring excellent results.

It is in order, therefore, for Illinois Democracy to spare no effort to profit to the fullest from the opportunity now offered. There are indications that the party organization fully recognizes its opportunity and its consequent duty. There should be a good report of Democratic gain from Illinois next November.

Observers declare that the acoustic properties of the convention hall at Kansas City are so excellent that in its most remote corner will easily be heard the voice of the antismoking proponent. The name of the next President of the United States.

The Monroe doctrine has had some bitter experiences in the past two years, but if the United States get mixed up in a reaction in China the doctrine will have been burned to ashes and the ashes scattered to the winds.

St. Louis can more easily spare all her sprinkling inspectors and all her horses and buggies used by her municipal officials than the meager hospital fund she has been slowly accumulating for years.

Editor Kohlhaas advises McKinley that the Puerto Rican tariff will lose the Republicans the next Congress. Editor Kohlhaas's estimate of losses is as conservative as General Buller's.

As a buffer to shield England from a too sudden collision with Russia in China, the United States Government will enter world-politics with more precaution than good judgment.

As a preamble to the Republican national platform of 1900, these simple words would be sufficiently comprehensive: "Dictated by the Trusts, through Mark Hanna, accredited agent."

If it be true that the Boers have organized an Amazon corps of widows the world's sympathies should be extended to the British soldiers facing an encounter with so redoubtable a foe.

Webster Davis, interviewed at Naples, declares that the Boers are tired of the war. Webster Davis will have to bring back news that this if he wants to command public attention.

About the only justification for fears of Queen Victoria's safety during the course of her visit to Dublin is found in the fact that Irishmen are traditionally famous as body-killers.

Speaker Henderson's continued suppression of the Macrum investigation resolution in the House of Representatives furnishes additional proof of the truth of Macrum's charges.

Place the local municipal government on an honest and economical basis and the Hospital fund will be safe from sacrifice at the hands of hoodling and extravagant ringsters.

As the military base for an American invasion of China the Philippines must impress England as being an illustration of "British luck" brought to its highest development.

The people of St. Louis look to the present Grand Jury for a demonstration that "The wicked stand in slippery places."

Now that the "insurrection" in the Philippines is suppressed, the war in those islands seems about to be resumed.

Housemaids Two.  
 Housemaids two, so dainty and clean,  
 March and April, we name them, together,  
 They freshen up the world this work between,  
 From the grime and sweat of the winter's weather.

One sweeps out and the other dith scrub,  
 The winds are the broom in March's hand,  
 And a heavenly of rain is April's tub.  
 Busy are they in a grateful land!

All for the sake of their Mistress Mary,  
 Patient none in a twelve-month meeting.  
 Strive they both, each in her kind completing,  
 Faithful true, to your praise we sing.  
 No less than to that of your Spring Queen—  
 March and April, they in the spring.  
 Housemaids two, so dainty and clean,  
 RIFLEY D. SAUNDERS.

## NOTABLE THEATRICAL BILLS OFFERED LAST NIGHT.



HOW THE CARTOONIST SAW SOME OF LAST NIGHT'S STAGE PERFORMANCES.

## Mrs. Fiske's "Becky Sharp" Is Charming Play.

The doings of Becky Sharp begin at the Grand Opera-house each evening at 8. The story to tell, so far as the stage tells it, is that of a young and handsome Augustus Cook, wealthy in front. He has been out of Lord Swithin's wonderful mask for twenty minutes, for all of the last act is taken up with Becky's first day, when the Lord Swithin are few and far between. The play, as a play, is a sort of farcical "Ivan Brumm" and "The Millionaire" mixed. There is no danger of "The Millionaire" being mistaken for "The Millionaire". The play is a sort of farcical "Ivan Brumm" and "The Millionaire" mixed. There is no danger of "The Millionaire" being mistaken for "The Millionaire".

## "The Degenerates" Is Degenerate Enough.

Mrs. Langtry, who has in the meantime signed as Mr. Jersey, the owner of a famous stable and patron of the British, was in and now really Mrs. Hugo De Bath, reappeared in St. Louis last night and was welcomed by a reasonably large audience at the Century.

The play in which she was seen is called "The Degenerates". It is perfectly named. Its prevailing atmosphere is the boredom of a society that has grown tired of itself and turned upon its own members in a well-remembered malice aimed at the delicate art of degradation. The faintest of degradation is in it, and its people are as weary of being evil as they might first have become weary of being good.

There is no danger of "The Degenerates" proving harmful to morality. Sidney Grundy is said in this play to have drawn a lovely faithful picture of London society. If so, London society must be a constant and most eloquent sermon in behalf of virtue. Mr. Grundy's play presents a group of well-to-do folk who evidently are the most unattractive thing in the world. They have—most of them—plainly given it a conscientious trial and have been disappointed.

Mrs. Langtry, after all these years? Well, certainly she is not the beauty who once was. But she is still a beauty, and who came to this country and showed up the most perfect physical type of the patriotic Englishwoman. Who could expect a beauty to be a beauty, and who came to this country and showed up the most perfect physical type of the patriotic Englishwoman. Who could expect a beauty to be a beauty, and who came to this country and showed up the most perfect physical type of the patriotic Englishwoman.

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## Miss Treville and Mertens in Rigoletto.

"Rigoletto," one of Verdi's earlier operas, was sung by the Castle Square Opera Company last night, and will be the bill during the week. The opera is one of the most beautiful written by the great composer. The orchestration is simple and old-fashioned, and the ballad tunes cling to the ear. It is the operatic version of "The Hunchback of Notre Dame," in which many great tragedians of the past have been seen. The tragedy was one of Verdi's favorite repertoires. Tragically enough the story runs along, depicting the hideous love of a poor court jester for his daughter, whom he seeks to protect against the will of the Duke of Mantua, by almost total seclusion.

The climax at the end is really melodramatic. When the Duke in his court jester thinks he has drowned the betrayer of his daughter is taken from the water, the Duke, most charmingly, shows the lively lady which occurs in the second act.

"Rigoletto" in the summer wind, waywardly playing, producing an effect of the most beautiful kind. The music, so sweet and tender, though afterwards, saves it from the banal. The list of characters is small, the plot is simple, and the ballad tunes cling to the ear. It is the operatic version of "The Hunchback of Notre Dame," in which many great tragedians of the past have been seen.

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## Mr. O'Neill's Return in "The Musketeers."

"The Musketeers," 10 strong, with James O'Neill at the head, came to the Olympic Theater last night for a week's engagement. Since the Liberty Bell, the best of this play, revamped by Sydney Grundy for Mr. O'Neill's special benefit, the scenic arrangement of the play has been changed. Changes have occurred in the cast since the play was seen here last April, just at the close of the Olympic season. Maude Odell, last year with the Castle Square Opera Company, has the part of Milady, in which Milady's name was made a hit. Miss Odell, though a handsome woman, is hardly as fair in her looks as the California actress, Nora O'Brien, who has been seen in the part. There are several new faces among them. Mr. O'Neill still presents a virile, athletic, manly, much-beloved figure. "The Musketeers" will be given till Saturday night, when "Monte Cristo" will be substituted for the benefit of Mr. Budd Maister, the Olympic treasurer.

Miss Anna Eva Fay will resume her performance at the Fourteenth Street Theater to-night with special ladies' matinee Friday and Saturday afternoons.

## HITCHCOCK INDIFFERENT.

Secretary Ignores Requests Made by the Senate.

WASHINGTON, March 19.—Trouble is impending between the Senate and Secretary of the Interior Hitchcock. Members of that body want to know why the Secretary of the Interior has refused to furnish information to the Senate calling for resolutions passed by the Senate calling for information from the Secretary of the Interior.

Nearly a month ago Senator Harris introduced, and the Senate passed, a resolution calling for information from the Secretary of the Interior. The Secretary of the Interior has refused to furnish the information.

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